

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 00489 260010Z
ACTION ARA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3351

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, DR
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT - DRAFT

REF: STATE 019872

1. PROPOSED FOLLOWING CHANGES KEYED TO NUMBERED PARAGRAPHS IN REFTEL

.

2. RE PARA 2, INSERT AFTER SECOND FULL SENTENCE ENDING WITH "OFFICE"

:

"THE DOMINICAN PRESS IS FREE." ALTER FOURTH FULL SENTENCE BEGINNING
"SUCH INCIDENTS" AS FOLLOWS: "ALTHOUGH INSURGENCY ATTEMPTS, POLITICA
L

KIDNAPPINGS AND ASSASSINATIONS HAVE NOT OCCURRED IN THE PAST FEW
YEARS, REPRESSION CONTINUES TO EXIST ALBEIT ON A REDUCED SCALE."
IN FIFTH FULL SENTENCE STARTING WITH "THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT"
INSERT AFTER PHRASE "HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS" THE PHRASES
"HAS CO-SPONSORED WITH THE UNITED STATES THE OAS RESOLUTION ON
HUMAN RIGHTS AT GRENADA, HAS SIGNED THE AMERICAN CONVENTION
ON HUMAN RIGHTS." (RATIONALE: THESE ARE SALIENT POINTS OF
DOMINICAN BEHAVIOR IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD WHICH SHOULD BE
INCLUDED IN ANY BRIEF, OBJECTIVE AND BALANCED SUMMARY.)

3. RE PARA 3. B., INSERT AT OUTSET FOLLOWING SENTENCE AND AMEND FIRS
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SENTENCE: "MOST PRISONERS DO NOT EXPERIENCE CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRAD
-
ING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT. HOWEVER, PHYSICAL ABUSE OF SOME PRISON-
ERS OCCURS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (ALTHOUGH NOT CONDONED BY GODR),
BUT APPEARS TO HAVE DECREASED. (RATIONALE: WITHOUT LEAD-IN SENTENCE
,
PARAPRAPH IS NOT RPT NOT IN CORRECT CONTEXT.)

4. RE PARA 3. C., SUBSTITUTE "MEMBERS" FOR "LEADERS" IN FIRST SENTENCE AND DELETE FROM FOURTH SENTENCE THE PHRASE "THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT OF 1977 STATED THAT" AND BEGIN THAT SENTENCE "THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERSJV ETC. WITTUT QUOTATION MARKS AROUND "FEW DOZEN"." THE PHRASE "MANY, OR MOST" WHICH BEGINS THE FIFLT SENTENCE SHOULD READ "MOEL, IF NOT ALL." THE LAST SENTENE OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHOULD READ "SOME VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS INCLUDING ARBITRARY ARREST CONTINUE TO OCCUR." (RATIONALE: THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT IS BY AND LARGE A COLLECTION OF UNDOCUMENTED IID UNSUBSTANTIATED ASSERTIONS. IT SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE GIVEN THE APPEARANCE OF EQUAL OR AUTHORITATIVE STATUS WITH LE REST OF THIS REPORT. IF IT IS THE DESIRE OF THE CONTRESS TO KNOW WHAT AMNEF

Y INTERNATIONALH AYS ABOUT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, I HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE DEPARTMENT APPENDING A COPY OF THAT REPORT TO THIS, PROVIDED THE AMFUSTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT IS ADEQUATELY CHARACTERIZED FOR WHAT IT IS, SO LTHAT THE CONGRESS WILL NOT BE MISLED. I DO OBJECT STRONGLY TOSGITING AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AS THOUGH IT WERE SOME SORT TJ AUTHORITATIVE BODY. "MEMBERS" INSTEAD OF "LEADERS" AND "MOST, IF NOT ALL" ARE ACCURATE.28

5. RE PARA 4, THERE IS NO RPT NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LAST DPARAGRAPH OF THIS SECTION BEGINNING "CORRUPTION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC" AND THE TITLE OF THIS SECTION SINCE CORRUPTION IS NOT RPT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT A POLICY OF THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT. THEREFORE, THIS PARAGRAPH SHOULD BE DELETED. IF REFERENCE IS MADE TO CORRUPTION, AS I BELEIVE SHOULD BE DONE, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE FIRST SENTENCE ONLY OF THIS PARAGRAPH BE INCORPORATED AT AN APPROPRIATE PLACE IN THE BEGINNING SUMMARY.

6. RE PARA 6, SECOND FULL PARAGRAPH SHOULD BEGIN "PRESIDENT BALAGUER WROTE TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IN APRIL 1977 ADMITTING, ETC." DELETE LAST SENTENCE RE HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTION SINCE IT IS MORE APPROPRIATELY PLACED IN SUMMARY.

7. IF CHANGES PROPOSED ABOVE ARE ACCEPTED, REPORT HAS MY CLEARANCE. IF NOT ACCEPTED, I SHALL APPRECIATE LEARNING SOONEST REASONS THEREFORE.
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